



CONGRESSWOMAN LORETTA SANCHEZ

Education Update

May 1999



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Friend,

I am pleased to report on my efforts to make quality, affordable education accessible to Orange County students. As a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, I am at the forefront of all education initiatives moving through Congress. This year we will renew the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Today, ESEA is the source for the great majority of Kindergarten through 12th grade federal education programs. It includes programs dealing with the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities program, teacher training, education technology and student testing, as well as many other important educational matters.

During the ESEA debate, I will work hard to find ways to direct federal dollars toward creating quality teaching in our Orange County classrooms, cutting federal education regulations and providing more flexibility to states and local school districts. We must give our educators the flexibility to shape federal education programs in ways that work best for teachers and children.

In the wake of the tragic school violence that erupted recently at a Colorado high school, we must renew our efforts to ensure that all of our students have safe learning environments. We owe our children no less.

On the following pages you will find updates on the educational programs I am working on, and I have also enclosed some helpful information about applying for student financial assistance. If you have questions about how to finance your college education, or need help with any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to serve you.

Very truly yours,

Loretta Sanchez
Your Congresswoman



COMMUNITY NEWS



Congresswoman Sanchez visits students at Remington Elementary School in Santa Ana on *Net Day* to discuss the E-Rate program.

MILITARY ACADEMY SPOTLIGHT ***Chris Penwarden of Anaheim*** ***finishes his first year at West Point***

Chris Penwarden, a former Servite High School student from Anaheim, is finishing his first year at West Point Academy in New York. Congresswoman Sanchez nominated Chris last year through a Congressional Cadetship.

"The best part about being a West Point cadet is knowing that you are at a good school and that you have the opportunities to explore leadership through different branches," said Penwarden. "It is kind of fun to do the impossible . . . memorizing the meals, newspaper and being drilled by upperclassmen every day is challenging yet rewarding."

"I am so proud of Chris and all the talented, dedicated students we have in the 46th District. I encourage students to consider our military service academies as an excellent place to prepare for the future," said Sanchez.

For more information about Military Academy appointments contact Congresswoman Sanchez's Garden Grove office at 714-621-0102.

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS RECEIVE \$11.5 MILLION TO LINK SCHOOL COMPUTERS TO THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

"This is an enormous step toward closing the technology gap that exists among our communities and creating full and fair opportunities for all students," Congresswoman Sanchez said.

The "e-rate," as it is commonly known, has provided discounted telecommunications services to schools and libraries since Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Schools throughout the U.S. can apply for these federal funds, which they can then use for telecommunication services, internal wire hookups and Internet services.

"We must ensure that our children are prepared for the opportunities and challenges awaiting them in the next century," Congresswoman Sanchez added. "I am pleased to announce that Orange County will receive \$11.5 million for e-rate funding."



**Congratulations and
Good Luck
to all the Graduating
Seniors in the
Class of 1999!**



LEGISLATIVE REPORT TO ORANGE COUNTY

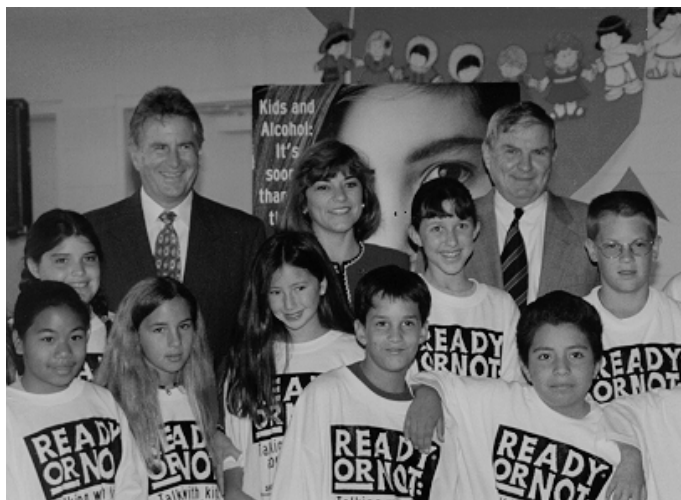
Congresswoman Sanchez continues her effort to Rebuild and Expand America's Schools

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez has introduced H.R. 415, "The Expand and Rebuild America's Schools Act," to help finance school construction and reduce class size by providing tax credits for school construction bonds.

Studies show that the test scores coming from kids who attend schools in poor condition can fall as much as 11 percentage points behind the scores of students studying in good buildings. Other studies show improvements of up to 20 percent in test scores when students move to a new, less crowded facility. Clearly, school overcrowding places a heavy burden on teachers and students.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues in passing meaningful school construction legislation to improve America's schools and address these serious concerns," Sanchez said.

The Sanchez bill will propose targeted federal support for school construction bonds in growth areas, offering important assistance to school districts, teachers, parents and students.



Congresswoman Sanchez attends Garden Grove Boys & Girls Club event to promote federal after-school programs.

LORETTA SANCHEZ BRINGS CONGRESS TO YOU!

**Congresswoman Sanchez will host a
House Education Committee hearing
in Orange County later this year.**

Stay tuned for details!

Smaller class sizes and more teachers in Orange County

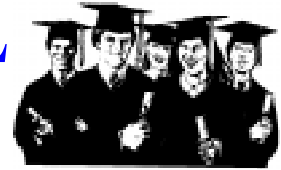
The President's education initiative to hire 100,000 new teachers will help local communities bring qualified educators to our classrooms. The program will assist local school districts in hiring and training new teachers, who will be required to pass state competency tests.

"This will ensure that every child receives personal attention, gets a solid foundation for further learning, and learns to read independently by the end of third grade," said Congresswoman Sanchez.

The program will allocate more than \$3.4 million to provide for smaller class sizes in Orange County school districts.



STUDENT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION



In order to help you prepare for your college experience, the U.S. Department of Education provides several types of financial aid to undergraduate and graduate students. Below is some information that you may find helpful if you are planning your own or your child's college education.

Federal Aid

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
PO Box 84
Washington, DC 20044
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/ope>
General Assistance and Information
800-4FED-AID
TDD: 800-730-8913

Help with direct loans:
800-848-0979
TDD: 800-848-0983
Help with consolidating your student loans:
800-557-7394
Help with student loans in default:
800-621-3115

State Aid

California Student Aid Commission
PO Box 419026
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026
916-526-7590
<http://www.csac.ca.gov>

California Department of Education
721 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95614
916-657-2451
<http://www.cde.ca.gov>



COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Come by and share your questions and concerns with Loretta as she updates the community on matters before Congress!

Saturday, May 22nd
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Ralph's Supermarket
1523 W. 17th Street
Santa Ana, 92707
(Cross Street: Bristol)

Saturday, June 26th
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Ralph's Supermarket
915 S. Brookhurst
Anaheim, 92804
(Cross Street: Ball)

Staying In Touch

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